

Case Study: Alumni

Matthew, PhD Applied Mathematics

Graduation Year: 2007

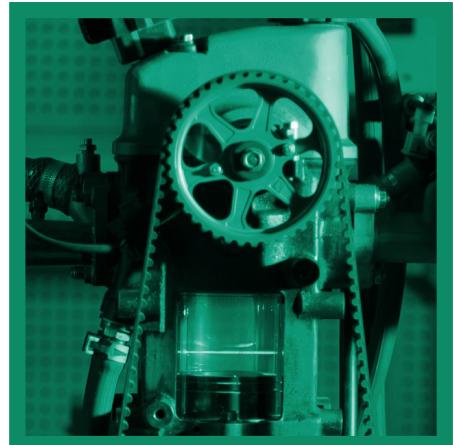
Job Title: Postdoctoral Researcher

Employer: Stamford University

Department: Institute for Computational & Mathematical Engineering

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to become a professor of applied mathematics, specializing in computational techniques.



Name 3 things you like about your job

- 1) The job is really what I make it. That's certainly not true of many appointments in the investment banking industry which provide little flexibility to follow your own interests.
- 2) I get to meet brilliant minded people and share powerful ideas.
- 3) I am paid to discover new scientific facts.

“I am paid to discover new scientific facts!”

- Matthew

Anything you are less keen on?

- 1) Job stability - it's a rough ride to a tenured faculty position.
- 2) Pay - quantitative analysts working for investment banks in the city earn 2-3 times the amount that I earn.
- 3) Non-linear - it's difficult to plan much of a life outside of work because of its un-predictable nature.

Did you choose your course with this particular occupation in mind?

I chose this course to distinguish myself as a problem solver - solving problems that scientists have studied for centuries and making a tiny contribution after years of hard work is very gratifying.

Did you gain work experience or an internship whilst at ICL?

I spent two summers working at Los Alamos National Laboratory with the Oceanography group who simulate climate change using supercomputers. This helped me make the transition to postdoctoral studies.



Could you give us one or more career tips for Imperial graduates?

How can you leverage your scientific or engineering background to bring value? Find a path that will quickly help you to distinguish yourself and sharpen your wits. Above all, keep your mind wide open.

